

Welcome to our services today

12 January 2025
Baptism of Christ



SAID EUCHARIST, 8am

PARISH COMMUNION, 9.15am

Followed by refreshments and chat in the Hall.

For part of this service during term time, young people are invited to join our age-appropriate activities led by our youth team:

Groups for ages up to Year 5 meets in the Hall

Years 5 to 7 in the Parish Room

Years 8+ in the Cellar (access is through the Parish Room)

There are various resources and activity bags in the Children's Chapel available for younger children.

Hymns: 81, 34, 87, 89

Congregational Setting: Tambling

Choir Music: Cook in E Minor

Warlock Bethlehem Down

Readings: Isaiah 43: 1-7; Acts 8: 14-17; Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22

This week we pray for all who live and work in Dognell Green and Brockett Close

Next service's readings: Isaiah 62: 1-5; 1 Corinthians 12: 1-11; John 2: 1-11

Parish Office (mornings Wed - Fri): 01707 694191

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St Francis of Assisi, CoE Church Road, WGC, AL8 6QJ Registered Charity No: 112984

Services & Diary Dates: this week

Tue 14 Jan	Said Eucharist, 7.30pm
Wed 15 Jan	ToddleTime playgroup, 10am Said Eucharist, 10.30am Coffee for All, 10.30am Prayer Group (online via Zoom), 8pm
Thur 16 Jan	Thursday Lunches, 12 noon
Fri 17 Jan	Choir practice, 7pm
Sun 19 Jan	Said Eucharist, 8am Parish Communion, 9.15am

Services & Diary Dates: further ahead

Sun 26 Jan	Choral Evensong, 6pm
Sat 8 Feb	Felici Opera – 10 th Anniversary Opera & Musical Theatre, 7.30pm (more details below)
Fri 28 Feb	Memorial Service - Judith Claxton, 2:30pm

Our church thrives through volunteers - can you help?

See foyer noticeboard for details and sign-up sheets.

- Volunteers for serving interval refreshments at Saturday concerts – do have a chat with Pui San to find out more. Dates: 1st & 25th March and 10th May.
- Volunteers are needed for our weekday and Sunday teams and our many other teams, some even work out flexibly from home or on ad-hoc basis to families and full-time working adults who help when they are able to do so. It is only through us all doing our part that together we can maintain a full and thriving St Francis Church life. Please speak to Jenny or either Churchwardens (Rob or Carol J). There will be an article in the January edition of our newsletter with more details.

News:

Felici Opera (founded by Zoe Jasko) will be celebrating its 10th anniversary (and farewell) with an opera and musical theatre gala on Saturday 8th February. From Mozart to Verdi, from G&S to 'Hamilton' there is something for everyone. All monies raised will be shared between St Francis Church and Cancer Research UK. Tickets from Zoe at www.feliciopera.com or 07712 530550.

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Collect

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Isaiah 43: 1-7

Thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight, and honoured, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life.

Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, 'Give them up,' and to the south, 'Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth - everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.'

Acts 8: 14-17

When the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them.

The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22

(In the wilderness John proclaimed a baptism of repentance.) As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

Next Sunday: Isaiah 62: 1-5; 1 Corinthians 12: 1-11; John 2: 1-11